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Sixtieth session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1701ST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 17 May 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom)

- Report of the Secretary-General on Credentials (continued)

- Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1992: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)

- Letter dated 13 May 1993 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Trusteeship Council, informing the Council of the intention of the Government of Palau to hold a plebiscite regarding the Compact of Free Association and inviting the Trusteeship Council to consider the dispatch of a mission to observe this plebiscite

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- Report of the Drafting Committee

- Attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories (Trusteeship Council resolution 1369 (XVII) and General Assembly resolution 1413 (XIV)) and the situation in Trust Territories with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 46/23) (continued)

- Cooperation with the Special Committee on the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI)) (continued)

- Suspension of the session

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS (T/1973) (continued)

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on the report of the Secretary-General on credentials for the sixtieth session?

If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Council decides to take note of that report.

It was so decided.

EXAMNINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1992: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (continued)

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on representatives of the Administering Authority to make closing statements in connection with this item.

Mr. MANSO (United States of America): As we approach the end of this session of the Trusteeship Council, I would like to begin my closing remarks by reaffirming our belief in the capability of Palau to take its place among the nations of the world. The time has come: Palau has demonstrated its competence in the administrative, legislative and judicial functions of self-government. Palau has a sound economy, substantial resources and a significant potential for economic growth.

I would like to direct my closing remarks to some of the important points made by other members of the Council during the general debate on Friday and raised by the two petitioners on Thursday. As in the past, we have welcomed the opportunity to hear from the other members of the Council and from petitioners, and we take their comments very seriously.

(Mr. Manso, United States)

First, let me reiterate in the strongest terms that both the Administering Authority and Palau are committed to the preservation of Palau's environment and culture. The statement of work for the Palau National Master Development Plan specifically provides that consideration be given to meeting those objectives. The Master Plan will guide Palauans towards making decisions today that will protect their heritage and resources for tomorrow. In this regard we are gratified that we were able in the margins of the Council's meetings to meet with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and finalize arrangements for hiring the master planner.

Secondly, we were happy that the members of the Council have recognized that discipline in budgetary and fiscal matters by the Administering Authority and Palau over the past several years has significantly enhanced self-government in Palau. Palau's improved financial condition means that the islands are well positioned to enter into a new political status.

Thirdly, we welcome the decision of the Council to send a mission to observe the plebiscite on Compact approval scheduled for 27 July 1993. We will be happy, if requested, to provide an official escort for that mission. We share the view expressed both by the members of the Council and by the petitioners that the plebiscite should not be held before the pending legal challenge to the November 1992 referendum is exhausted. We were happy to hear from Tommy Remengesau, the Vice-President of Palau, on Thursday last that the case is scheduled to be heard on 27 May, and that any appeal should be decided well before the scheduled plebiscite. We share the Council's understanding that a visiting mission should not be sent to Palau to observe the upcoming

(Mr. Manso, United States)

Compact plebiscite until there has been final adjudication of the now pending legal challenge related to the plebiscite. We also share the view expressed that the United States should await final adjudication of any pending legal challenges before bringing the Compact into effect.

The Compact Implementation Act enacted by the United States Congress in 1989 conditions entry into force of the Compact on Palauan approval through a referendum free from any legal challenge. Only after such litigation is exhausted will the United States notify the Trusteeship Council that the Compact has entered into force and that action to terminate the Trusteeship is appropriate. We are hopeful that we will be in a position to do this at the December meeting of the Council.

(Mr. Manso, United States)

A final point, which was raised by the two petitioners on 13 May, concerns modifying the Compact of Free Association in the light of changes in the world situation. Both the Palauan leadership and the United States Executive Branch have been sensitive to the fact that, given the current budgetary situation in the United States and Palau's decreased strategic importance in the post-cold-war era, it is possible that reopening the Compact before it enters into force could result in changes by Congress to the Compact unfavourable to Palau.

As an alternative to reopening the Compact, the United States has tried to address Palauan concerns through the assurances contained in Secretary of State Christopher's recent letter. President Nakamura, in his message to the Palauan Congress, stated his belief that the Compact, read together with the Guam Accords and Secretary Christopher's assurances, is "fair and equitable". Next, the Palauan Congress and then the Palauan people will decide if free association is the route they want to take to resolve Palau's status. Ultimately, it is for the people of Palau to decide whether the Compact or another relationship, such as independence, best suits the needs of Palau.

We share the sentiment of the French delegation, which said in the general debate on 14 May that the political and economic maturity of Palau has outlived its Trust status. Recent events have filled us with optimism that, after some 46 years, the important work of the Trusteeship Council will finally be concluded with the termination of the last Trusteeship and the emergence of a new member of the community of nations. Until that time, we reaffirm our commitment to fulfil our responsibilities under the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. After that time, we look forward to continuing our friendly, cooperative relations with Palau based on trust and respect.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the Special Representative of Palau to make a closing statement.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Representative Adviser): It is my privilege once again to deliver my country's closing statement on behalf of Vice-President Tommy Remengesau. Owing to other official commitments, he had to return home before the end of the session. My remarks will centre around two subjects that have generated considerable discussion during the current session and perhaps need further amplification or updating.

With respect to maritime surveillance and law enforcement, as reported in Mr. Allen Stayman's opening statement, the Administering Authority had approved the Republic's request for $100,000 in technical assistance, to be matched with the same amount from local revenues, for drydocking, repairing and reactivating the decommissioned United States Coast Guard cutter. This vessel was acquired in the latter part of 1990 to be used to patrol Palau waters and protect against poaching. Unfortunately, the boat went out of operation within less than a year owing to mechanical difficulties, the lack of sufficient funds for its maintenance and the high cost of operation. Within a month after taking office in January this year, President Nakamura issued an executive order establishing, among other things, a Division of Marine Law Enforcement to step up efforts in this vitally needed government responsibility.

Additionally, draft comprehensive maritime legislation will be presented to the fourth Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK) for consideration during its regular session in July. Once enacted into law, this bill will provide sufficient funding to the Palau Maritime Authority with which to recruit marine biologists, tuna fisheries experts and qualified surveillance and enforcement support staff to carry out fishery and maritime duties and functions more

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effectively. In close cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, and acting in concert with other Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) member countries, the Authority will be better equipped to conduct supervision, monitoring and coordination of surveillance and maritime law enforcement measures in the protection of the marine resources in the Republic's 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

On the regional scene and by way of following up on information reported to the Council on this subject last year, allow me to report the following developments. Palau, along with 13 out of 16 Pacific island nations that are members of the Forum Fisheries Agency, became signatory to the Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific Region. The House of Delegates approved the Treaty during the first regular session in February this year. However, while the Treaty was under consideration by the OEK Senate, the Administering Authority notified the Palauan leadership in early March of the United States State Department's objection to Palau proceeding to ratify the agreement.

It is incumbent upon me to note that the Administering Authority has since reconsidered its position as of the beginning of this month. Palau is now able to participate in the activities of the Niue surveillance Treaty, provided the Republic consults and coordinates its undertakings with the State Department. While we welcome this relaxation of United States policy, we nevertheless look forward to the change of our political status and, from 1 October 1993 onward, we hope to have a free hand in the conduct of our foreign affairs and in the performance of our international relations.

As a full-fledged member of the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Republic has undertaken certain membership obligations, including a commitment to cooperate

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in all Pacific regional initiatives in the area of maritime surveillance and law enforcement. The Republic fully and actively participated in the fifth annual consultation on the United States multilateral Treaty on fisheries held in Fiji in April and, together with the rest of the FFA member countries, concluded discussions with the representatives of the Administering Authority for a 10-year extension. The proposed amendments to the fisheries Treaty must be accepted or formally ratified unanimously by the United States and all the 16 Pacific island parties, including Palau, before the end of May in order for the $18 million access fee under the extension to become available after 15 June 1993 to the Pacific island parties.

The House of Delegates also approved the amendments in mid-April during the OEK second regular session. The Senate, on the other hand, adjourned sine die without considering the amendments. This was due to legislative oversight and not for other reasons. The Senators have given their word that they will favourably consider and ratify the United States fisheries Treaty amendments at the upcoming special session of the Olbiil Era Kelulau on 20 May.

Furthermore, the eight Parties to the Nauru Agreement, including Palau, have all signed the Western Pacific Management Arrangement on Purse Seine Fishery. This agreement, as reported last year, establishes quotas on the number of licenses available to purse seine fleets of each of the distant-water-fishing nations actively operating in the fisheries zones of the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special Representative Adviser)

Renamed the "Palau Arrangement" by the 23rd meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee, which was held in Palau last week and which I had the privilege to chair, the agreement is a management measure to stop further expansion of purse seine fishing in our subregion of the Pacific Ocean.

Another maritime-surveillance-related initiative worth mentioning is the commencement soon by Palau of bilateral discussions with the Government of Australia for construction of a brand new patrol vessel. Other Pacific island countries, including the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshalls, are proud recipients of modern patrol boats through the Australian Government's Maritime Assistance Programme. Palau seeks similar grant aid to augment its efforts in this field.

A final word on this topic: Palau has agreed to host the Ninth Surveillance Officers Workshop, scheduled for March 1994, under the auspices of the Forum Fisheries Agency in coooperation with the Office of the Attorney General and the members and staff of the Palau Maritime Authority. Our surveillance and marine-law enforcement staff are anxiously looking forward to this in-country training to upgrade their skills and efficiency.

I hope that the foregoing serves to reassure the delegation of the Russian Federation and your own United Kingdom delegation, Mr. President, that the Administering Authority and Palau Government authorities, working in close cooperation with the Pacific island neighbours, are indeed taking appropriate management measures to ensure sustainability of fish stocks, especially tuna resources, as well as to protect and prevent marine resources from being over-exploited or indiscriminately harvested by distant water fishing nations.

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special Representative Adviser)

I turn now to the subject of Palau's future political status.

In his opening statement, Vice-President Remengesau advised the Trusteeship Council of the significant Assurances relating to implementation of the Compact of Free Association signed by and received from United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher. President Nakamura forwarded the Assurances immediately to the leadership of the Olbiil Era Kelulau, to all 16 state governors, to the traditional leaders, and to his cabinet ministers.

On 12 May, President Nakamura submitted to Senate President Sugiyama and House Speaker Whipps a report on the history of Palau's status negotiations to date and his analysis of Secretary Christopher's Assurances. In the same message, the President also called the Fourth Olbiil Era Kelulau to convence in a special session on 20 May to consider a draft resolution on the eighth Compact plebiscite and a legislative proposal on Compact implementation and, as mentioned earlier, for Senate approval of the United States Fisheries Treaty amendments.

Allow me to indicate to the Council what the draft resolution and the proposed bill aim to accomplish.

Public Law No. 3-67, which authorized the constitutional amendment referendum last year, set two conditions that must be met before the National Congress can by resolution designate a date for the eighth plebiscite on the Compact. They are: first, certification of the passage of the constitutional amendment by a simple majority of the popular vote and by no less than a three-fourths favourable vote of the 16 state governments; and, secondly, receipt from the United States of a favourable response to the proposed modifications of the Compact.

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The Palau Election Commission on 14 November 1992 officially certified the passage of the constitutional amendment. However, a lawsuit challenging the validity of such approval in Civil Action case 285-92 was filed and is currently pending on appeal before the Palau Supreme Court. As mentioned earlier, the case is scheduled to be heard on 27 May and will be disposed of by the end of this month. Final adjudication of the case removes the only legal impediment to meeting the first condition. We are confident that the court will rule in favour of certification.

Receipt of Secretary Christopher's Assurances constitutes fulfilment of the second condition precedent to the holding of the eighth Compact plebiscite.

With both contingencies now having been met, President Nakamura is taking the initiative in urging the Palau National Congress to adopt the draft joint resolution setting Tuesday, 27 July 1993, as the date for the eighth plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association.

The proposed Compact Implementation Act of 1993, which President Nakamura has introduced for legislative consideration will, if enacted into law: first, appropriate the sum of $200,000, as authorized by Public Law 3-67, for the purpose of defraying the costs and expenses of the eighth Compact plebiscite; secondly, mandate the Palau Election Commission to certify the results of the plebiscite within 10 days of the vote; thirdly, set a 45-day period from the date of the certification by the Election Commission as the time within which legal challenges to the establishment, administration or results of the plebiscite must be filed; fourthly, establish, contingent upon Compact approval and within 10 days of certification of such approval, a five-member transition commission charged with ensuring that all requisite steps or actions required for Compact implementation are fulfilled; and,

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special Representative Adviser

fifthly, require President Nakamura to use his best efforts to ensure that the approved Compact of Free Association enters into force on 1 October 1993, or such later date as may be agreed upon with the Government of the United States of America in accordance with section 411 of the Compact.

The Republic of Palau and its people are well on their way to ratifying the Compact of Free Association finally and conclusively by a simple majority vote. They are at the threshold of a new form of political relationship with their soon-to-be former mentor, the United States of America. The end of the prolonged trusteeship status is lurking over the horizon and signaling the beginning of a new era for Palau. It behoves the Council, therefore, to dispatch yet another observer mission - as it has done on similar occasions in the past - to witness the 27 July 1993 balloting and to attest to the Palaun voting public's exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination.

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By this time next year, if not sooner, the representatives of "our strong ally and good friend", to use Vice-President Remengesau's words, together with officials of the Republic of Palau, will make their final appearance before the Council to celebrate the process of ending trusteeship. Some time thereafter Palau will solicit the unanimous support of the Chinese, French, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States delegations for the Security Council formally to terminate for all time the Trusteeship Agreement for the strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which for the past seven years has consisted only of Palau.

And when the Republic of Palau has got its act together, and when the time is right, we shall revisit the hallowed halls of the United Nations, only this time we shall be applying for membership of the United Nations and, with Members' blessing, will take our rightful place in the world community of nations.

On behalf of President Nakamura, Vice-President Remengesau, the leadership of the Olbiil Era Kelulau, the traditional chiefs and the elders and the youth of the tiny island Republic of Palau, I thank all the Council members, both past and present, and their hard-working staff for their diligence, patience and perseverance in having presided over the affairs of the United Nations international Trusteeship system for over half a century. We, the inhabitants of the last of the original 11 Trust Territories the world over, have learned from the Council's example to be diligent, to be patient and to persevere in our agonizing search for a suitable political destiny for ourselves and future generations.

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It is only fitting, therefore, that the resolution of the Republic of Palau's political future and the restoration of the Palauan people's sovereignty are now both occurring in the Year of Our Lord 1993, the International Year of the World's Indigenous People.

Thank you, goodbye, and may God bless us all.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mr. Uherbelau. On behalf of the Council, I wish to thank you for a very clear and comprehensive statement about two of the issues that have concerned and occupied Trusteeship Council members over the past few years. I also thank you for your kind remarks about the Trusteeship Council's efforts over the past several years.

Perhaps I may take this opportunity, since the question occasionally arises, to reaffirm that it is for Palauan voters, and only for Palauan voters, to decide on their future status; it is not for the Trusteeship Council, we believe, to be interventionist in this matter or to seek to prescribe a particular form of self-determination for the people of Palau. Our sole concern, expressed over the past two or three years, has been that we believe the time is now ripe to bring the matter to a successful conclusion. I am very grateful, Mr. Uherbelau, for your comments and for those of the Administering Authority in that regard.

I should also like, through you, Mr. Uherbelau, to thank all the representatives of Palau who attended these meetings, to wish you a safe trip home and in particular to extend our thanks to the Vice-President, Mr. Remengesau, for being able to attend our first few meetings.

LETTER DATED 13 MAY 1993 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (T/1974), INFORMING THE COUNCIL OF THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PALAU TO HOLD A PLEBISCITE REGARDING THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AND INVITING THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE DISPATCH OF A MISSION TO OBSERVE THIS PLEBISCITE (T/1974, T/L.1286 and T/L.1287)

The PRESIDENT: In this connection, I wish to draw members' attention not only to document T/1974, but to the draft resolution on the item, contained in document T/L.1286, and the document (T/1287) on its financial implications.

As there are no comments on document T/1974, containing the invitation extended to the Trusteeship Council by the Administering Authority, we shall now take up draft resolution T/L.1286 concerning the dispatch of a visiting mission to Palau to observe the forthcoming plebiscite in Palau. The draft resolution is sponsored by China, France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom. In this connection, I again draw the attention of members to document T/L.1287, relating to the financial implications of the draft resolution. The draft resolution was prepared according to the format of previous resolutions adopted by the Council on the dispatch of visiting missions.

I now call on the representative of France to introduce the draft resolution.

Mr. FOUCHER (France) (interpretation from French): The drafting committee set up by the Trusteeship Council at its 1700th meeting on 14 May considered the draft resolution in document T/L.1286 at a meeting in which China, the Russian Federation, France and the United Kingdom took part.

By the draft resolution the Trusteeship Council will decide to send to Palau a visiting mission charged with observing the plebiscite to take place in the Territory on 27 July. The Visiting Mission will have the task of observing the plebiscite, and specifically the polling arrangements, the

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casting of votes, the closure of voting, the counting of ballots and the declaration of results. It will be composed of four members of the Trusteeship Council - China, France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom - and two representatives of countries of the region that are not members of the Council.

I ask that the draft resolution, which had the support of all the members of the drafting committee, be adopted by the Trusteeship Council.

The PRESIDENT: It is my understanding that members of the Council are in agreement to waive rule 57 of our rules of procedure, which specifies that reports and draft resolutions should be circulated to members 24 hours in advance of the meeting at which they are to be considered.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the Council is prepared to adopt the draft resolution without a vote?

The draft resolution was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: Members will note that, by the resolution just adopted, the Council decided, inter alia, that the composition of the Visiting Mission, including two representatives of countries of the region, should be determined through further consultations.

If there are no comments, we will continue our informal consultations on that issue.

(The President)

Following past practice, I suggest that the Council decide that the names of the persons to be submitted by the Governments concerned will automatically be approved when received.

May I take it that members agree to this suggestion?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Furthermore, I propose that the Council take note of the statement made by the representative of the United States that the Administering Authority, in accordance with established practice, would provide escort officers to the Mission.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Finally, on this point, and to take up some comments which have been expressed by a number of delegations, it is my understanding, following informal consultations, that the visiting mission to Palau to observe the forthcoming plebiscite will be dispatched on the understanding that the pending legal challenge relating to the plebiscite has been adjudicated definitively beforehand.

It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now consider the report of the Drafting Committee on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which has been circulated in document T/L.1285.

I call on the representative of France to introduce the draft report.

The FOUCHER (France) (interpretation from French): The Drafting Committee created by the Trusteeship Council at its 1700th meeting has also considered the annual report of the Administering Authority and the statements made to the Trusteeship Council by the representatives of Palau, the Administering Authority and the members of the Council.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Council are to be found in document T/L.1285, which has just been distributed. These have been supported by all members of the Council, and I would propose that they be adopted.

Finally, I should like to express the gratitude of my delegation to the members of the Council for the excellent cooperation they have shown during the drafting of these conclusions and recommendations, as well as to the Administering Authority for helping us in clarifying certain points in detail.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no further comments on the report of the Drafting Committee, it is my understanding that the members of the Council are prepared to waive rule 57 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship

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Council which, as I mentioned earlier, specifies that the reports and draft resolutions should be circulated to the members 24 hours in advance of the meeting at which they are to be considered.

If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no comments, may I take it that the Council decides to adopt the draft conclusions and recommendations without a vote?

The draft conclusions and recommendations were adopted.

The PRESIDENT: The draft conclusions and recommendations we have just approved will constitute Part II of the Council's report to the Security Council. The first part of the report will contain an overview, a summary of our deliberations, in accordance with customary practice.

If there are no further comments, the Council has thus concluded its consideration of its conclusions and recommendations.

ATTAINMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE BY THE TRUST TERRITORIES (TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1369 (XVII) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1413 (XIV) AND THE SITUATION IN TRUST TERRITORIES WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 1514 (XV) AND 46/23) (continued)

COOPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1654 (XVI)) (continued)

The PRESIDENT: As agreed by members of the Council at our 1699th meeting on 13 May 1993, the Council will now resume consideration of items 10 and 11, which we decided to consider jointly, namely: Attainment of self-government or independence by Trust Territories; and, Cooperation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of

(The President)

the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Members will recall that at that meeting we had decided to take a decision today on these agenda items.

If there are no comments, may I suggest that the Council decide to draw the attention of the Security Council to the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its sixtieth session concerning the attainment, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, and in particular Article 83, of self-government or independence by the Trust Territory, and to the statements made by members of the Trusteeship Council on those questions.

If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with the procedure adopted at the Council's earlier sessions, we shall now recess and meet in a resumed session to consider the draft report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council and the report of the envisaged visiting mission to observe the plebiscite in Palau in late July.

Members will be informed of the precise date of the resumed session as soon as possible.

As members are aware, the session has not yet been completed and members will have a further opportunity to speak when the Council resumes in session to finalize its report to the Security Council. As has been our practice in previous years, I shall ask the Secretariat to prepare a draft of our report to the Security Council. When it is completed, I shall then distribute the

(The President)

report to members and intend to hold informal consultations to seek their views on the report before the resumption of the Council in formal session.

At this stage, I should like to thank all delegations for the very understanding and businesslike attitude that they have demonstrated throughout our meetings during this first part of the session. On behalf of the members of the Council, and certainly on my own behalf, I should like to thank the representatives of the specialized agencies who have attended our session.

I also want to thank very warmly, on your behalf, all members of the Secretariat, and in particular our Secretary, Mr. de Sousa, for his unfailing help and diligence in preparing our meetings. I want to thank you all very much.

In addition, my thanks go to the interpreters, the press officers, the conference officers, the verbatim reporters, the precis writers and the documents officers, all of whom have very efficiently discharged their work, which is so indispensable for the smooth functioning of the Council.

So thank you once again. We shall meet again later this year. Meanwhile, I declare the sixtieth session of the Trusteeship Council suspended.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.